

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2014, 7:30 PM
NRC Office, Town Hall**

Attending: Heidi Gross, Chair, Stephen Murphy, Vice Chair, Joan Gaughan, Lise Olney, Raina McManus, and Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director

Public Voice

No one attending the meeting spoke at Public Voice.

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Update on Outdoor Lighting and Noise Study Committee

Ms. McManus stated that there is no update on the committee's work but that they continue to develop recommendations that will be made for possible bylaw changes to the Planning Board. She stated that she is investigating the possibility of making improvements to the existing tennis court lights in terms of improved shielding that will reduce off-site spillage as well as the placement of timers on the lights. Ms. McManus stated she will be checking with Mike Quinn on the costs and feasibility of making these changes and will keep the NRC updated on the status of this information.

Update on North 40 Steering Committee

Ms. Gross updated the NRC on the status of the committee's work and indicated that they are on a compressed timeline for a Fall Town Meeting to make a recommendation as to whether or not the Town should acquire this land. There was a brief discussion of the inter-board meeting held last evening on August 13 regarding the North 40 which was a visioning session for Town officials and staff. Ms. Gross will keep the NRC updated on the status of the committee's work.

Update on Initiative to Reduce Single Use Plastics

Ms. Olney gave an update and background on the work that a sub-committee of the NRC will be doing to look at reducing single use plastics in Town. She gave a brief background and stated that she has worked on this issue as part of the Sustainable Wellesley organization and that as a result of the recent NRC movie "Bag It", that after the movie there was a discussion with Ellen Korpi of the Sustainable Energy Committee who offered to organize a follow up meeting on the subject to begin a focus. Ms. Olney stated that Ms. Korpi then met with Ellen Gibbs from the Selectmen's office and it was determined that this topic was more suitable for the NRC to take a lead on. As a result, Ms. Olney stated that she and Ms. McManus will be taking a lead on the issue and will keep the NRC updated on their progress. Ms. Olney reported that she and Ms. McManus recently met with Matthew Horneig from the Wellesley High School Green Team and he's very interested in working with them on the topic. She briefly outlined the work done by four other Massachusetts towns that have banned plastic bags and will further explore options for similar approaches in Wellesley.

Schedule NRC September Meeting Dates

After discussion, the NRC scheduled a September 9th meeting date and a September 25th meeting date.

Director's Report

Update on Hunnewell Field Basketball Court Restoration Project

Ms. Bowser stated that she was on-site recently and that the work is progressing and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September and she will keep the board updated on the status of the project.

Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project Construction Phase Update

Ms. Bowser provided a brief update on the status of the project and stated that all permitting report submittals have been submitted as reported by the DPW and that work is scheduled to begin shortly. She will keep the NRC updated on the status of the project.

Update on Recent Public Shade Tree Violations and Enforcement

Document reviewed for this discussion:

- *"Memorandum to the NRC from Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director, dated August 13, 2014 entitled "NRC Statutory Authority and Enforcement Process Related to Damages to Public Shade Trees."*

Ms. Bowser reviewed with the NRC three (3) recent violations to Public Shade Trees. Ms. Bowser stated that the Public Shade Tree Removal hearing will be scheduled for September 25, 2014 and she will work with the DPW to organize this. Ms. Bowser briefly outlined the process the NRC used with regard to evaluating proposed public shade trees for removal. Ms. Gross recommended that Ms. Olney become a member of the NRC's Tree Sub-Committee with her and that they will evaluate.

Update on Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Program

Ms. Bowser stated that she had circulated an update on the program from Dr. Ken Wagner, the Morses Pond Manager, indicating that the pond conditions remain very positive and water clarity remains very high as we have not had much intense rain this year. She stated that the Phosphorus Inactivation System has worked well and appears largely responsible for the positive conditions in the pond both in terms of high water clarity and reduced algae amounts. She stated that phosphorus levels in the south basin have been substantially below threshold for possible algae problems and that the new chemical being used in the Phosphorus Inactivation System, poly-aluminum chloride, has been very positive and has done an excellent job at binding the phosphorus coming in from the upper watershed. Ms. Bowser indicated that an electrical line will now be run at the Dale Street pump station prior to it being paved and this will allow for the Phosphorus Inactivation System to be automated next year and will start reducing labor costs. Ms. Bowser will keep the NRC updated on the status of the program.

Bench Proposal for Installation at Fuller Brook Park

Ms. Bowser briefly reviewed with the NRC request from Cricket Vlass, the Town's Landscape Planner for the installation of the bench near Cottage Street within Fuller Brook Park. The NRC supported the installation of the bench and Ms. Bowser stated she will report back to Ms. Vlass.

NRC Meeting Minutes Receive an A+ Rating by the Wellesley Townsman

Document reviewed for this discussion:

- *Townsman article of August 14, 2014 entitled "Meeting Minutes Online: a Report Card"*

Ms. Bowser distributed a copy of this article published today in the Wellesley Townsman in which the NRC was the only Town elected or appointed board that received a grade of A+ in terms of its meeting minutes being published online in a timely manner. The NRC thanked Ms. Bowser for her efforts on drafting the minutes and getting them online in a timely manner.

Update on Staff Land Use Meeting

Ms. Bowser stated that at this month's recent Land Use meeting, a number of subjects were discussed including the North 40, the Fuller Brook Project, 900 Worcester Street and Flood Plain related issues. Ms. Bowser will continue to keep the NRC updated on any land use issues affecting the NRC.

Update on Recent Site Visits

Ms. Bowser stated she recently made site visits to Perrin Park to review and approve the revised design at Perrin Park and installation is anticipated by the end of September. She also conducted a site visit at a residence at 900 Worcester Street to investigate possible contamination and no contamination was detected. Ms. Bowser also conducted a site visit at 100 Cedar Street to investigate a potential encroachment as reported by the Building Inspector. She stated that the homeowner is conducting title research in order to determine if they have a right-of-way or granted title to land that appears to be NRC land. Ms. Bowser will keep the NRC updated on the status of this situation.

Review and Discussion Regarding Department Fiscal Year 2015 Goals

Documents reviewed for this discussion:

- *Proposed FY15 Goals developed by Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director, dated July 30, 2014*
- *Draft Departmental FY15 Goals drafted by Heidi Gross, dated August 13, 2014*
- *Draft NRC FY15 Goals drafted by Lise Olney, dated August 14, 2014*
- *Draft NRC Goals prepared by Raina McManus, dated August 14, 2014*
- *Draft NRC Goals drafted by Joan Gaughan, dated August 14, 2014*
- *Draft NRC FY15 Goals drafted by Stephen Murphy, dated August 14, 2014*

The NRC reviewed and discussed the goals outlined above and made preliminary decisions that the following goals would be focused on:

Heidi's goals 1, 2 and 3;

Janet's goals 2 which will revise Heidi's goal 2, since they are both on the same subject;

Lise's goal 4a regarding the NRC Newsletter.

All of these goals will be revised and further reviewed to develop a timeline and benchmarks for evaluating success and will be further discussed at the NRC's next meeting.

Review and Approval of NRC July 15, 2014 and July 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Olney stated that she had missed the July 15th meeting and appreciated the depth and specificity included in the minutes regarding the deliberation and discussion on the Public Shade Tree Removal Hearing related to the fiscal improvement project. Ms. McManus also stated that she felt the level of detail and specificity as to the discussion that took place and who made statements at the hearing and how the deliberation evolved and then was resolved were extremely useful.

After a motion was made and seconded the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the NRC July 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes with a minor clarification with regard NRC's Initiative to Reduce Single Use Plastics.

After a motion was made and seconded the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the July 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes as written.

Ms. Bowser stated that she will be on vacation next week and as a result the minutes will be completed by the end of August 26 due to the fact that she will be out for the next week.

Adjournment

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hartke Bowser
NRC Director